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Cal/EPA



Department of Toxic Substances Control

5796 Corporate Avenue
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Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

October 18, 2005

Mike McElligott
Chief, Restoration Program
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APPROVAL OF FINAL SITE 13 CLUSTER INTERIM REMOVAL ACTION WORK PLAN, VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE, CALIFORNIA

Dear Mr. McElligott:

The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) and the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) have reviewed the subject document dated September 9, 2005 which was prepared by Tetra Tech, Inc. on behalf of Vandenberg Air Force Base (VAFB). The Site 13 Cluster covers approximately 150 acres and consists of Site 13, a former Advanced Ballistic Re-Entry System-A (ABRES-A) Launch Complex, Site 14 (ABRES-A Lake), and Site 28 (Missile Silo 395-B). The sites, referred to as Site 13C in the document, are located adjacent to one another in the northern part of VAFB and were grouped due to their proximity, shared environmental characteristics, linked operational histories, and contaminant migration pathways. Previous investigations at Site 13C documented the presence of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in groundwater at concentrations in excess of Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs).

The objective of the Interim Removal Action (IRA) Work Plan is to implement the selected alternative from the Site 13C Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA) and begin to reduce groundwater VOC concentrations to levels protective of human health and the environment. The IRA Workplan provides details of the removal action technology, design, implementation plan, operation and maintenance, sampling plan, data management plan, and investigation-derived waste plan. The IRA Workplan also includes a treatability study test data conducted for 12 months at the site.

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The selected alternatives in the EE/CA will be implemented in two phases and will include injection of soybean oil into a series of injection wells at the Watt Road area and oxygen diffusion via iSOC™ units at the downgradient paleochannel area. The final remedy for source area(s) at Site 13C and other contaminants in groundwater will be addressed in the Feasibility Study for the site.

DTSC and RWQCB are satisfied that their comments on the draft document have been adequately addressed and hereby approve the final IRA Work Plan as written.

We look forward to working with you to expedite the investigation and cleanup of the sites at Vandenberg Air Force Base. If you have any questions, please contact Quang Than of DTSC at (714) 484-5352 or Linda Stone of RWQCB at (805) 542-4695.

Sincerely,



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